VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA
CHAPTER # 1
P.O. BOX 6301
RUTLAND, VT. 05701

NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY, 1992

Dear Veteran:

This newsletter is being sent out to let all of you know what Chapter #1 has been up to since our reactivation started in late September. As many of you know, the Moving Wall brought many of us together again for the first time in quite awhile, as well as intoduced us to many more brothers and sisters. The camaraderie experienced there could not end when the Moving Wall moved on, it was much too strong. From these beginnings came the decision to reactivate our chapter. Since then we have made much progress. However, there is much more to be done, new members are always welcome. For this reason, we are mailing this newsletter to any and all Nam vets in the surrounding areas in the hope of attracting new members. We encourage anyone interested to attend our meetings to see what we are all about.

COLOR GUARD

Our Color Guard has participated in three parades, beginning with the Bicentennial Parade in Brattleboro on September 22. At this parade we marched as a combined unit with groups and individuals from all over Vermont and Northern Massachusetts. The response of the crowd was overwhelming as we were greeted with standing ovations and cheers.

Our next parade was the Veteran's Day parade held in Poultney. Our four man Color Guard was present despite the inclement weather. Poultney American Legion Post #39 has a large population of Vietnam Vets who are or may be interested in taking part in some of our activities.

Our final parade of the year was the Joy Store Christmas Parade in South Glens Falls, NY. Here we were the guests of VVA #79. Our association with #79 began when Bill and Beth Higgins met and talked with Don and Sharon Amorosi at #79's information booth on Warrensburg, NY. From the very first, Don and Sharon, as well as the other members were eager to help us in any way that they could. At the parade, our four man Color Guard marched within the ranks of their unit. Again we were greeted with cheers. After the parade the two chapters had much to talk about, and everyone agreed that the association of our two chapters will serve to unite and strengthen the voice of the Vietnam Veteran. **TOGETHER** we will have a far greater impact on veterans issues.

Volunteers are needed for the Color Guard in the upcoming year, beginning with a St. Patrick's Day parade in Holyoke, MA in mid-March. If you are interested in participating, contact Bill Higgins at 468-5652 after 4 pm.

POW/MIA

Our POW/MIA committee was formed at our very first meeting, with Bill Barnes as Chairman. He immediately started a letter

writing assalult on Senators, Representatives, The Rutland Herald, and anyone else he could think of! Our biggest project to date has been a giant petition for denying foreign aid, trade, and normalized relations with the former Soviet Union, North Korea, Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia until a full accounting of all American POW/MIA from ALL wars is accomplished. This petition was at the Rutland Mall for three weeks during the month of December. We attained coverage in The Rutland Herald, as well as a short clip on the Channel 22 news. When all was said and done, we had 6,801 signatures. Special thanks to all our great volunteers, especially Eugene Miner, who did more than his share of volunteer time.

Since then, Bill Barnes has had two letters to the editor published in The Rutland Herald concerning the POW/MIA issue. On January 16th, a group of our guys took the petition to Chapter #54 in North Adams, MA. They received the petition with enthusiasm and agreed to try it out down there. Other groups are contacting Bill Barnes with an interest in our petition.

POW/MIA BRACELETS

Another project of the committee has been the purchase of bracelets with the names of the four Vermonters listed as MIA. We accepted donations at the petition totaling nearly $350. Out of this we ordered two dozen bracelets from Chapter #452 through Artie Muller. These bracelets are selling for $7.50 each with a fact sheet attached. An additional two dozen bracelets have already been ordered. Sales have gotten off to a good start. Bracelets are available from any member, or through the VA Office.

SPAGHETTI SUPPER

On December 18, a spaghetti supper for veterans was held at Clem's Kitchen. This was organized by Jake Jacobson as a social event to enjoy the camaraderie. It was greatly enjoyed by all who attended, hopefully we will hold more social events.

ELECTIONS

Coming elections are tentatively scheduled for April. Joe Lynch is running for President: Bill Barnes for Vice-President; Clark Howland for Treasurer; and Beth Higgins for Secretary. Also needed are Board of Directors officers. Anyone interested in running for office should contact the VA Office.

So far we are off to a fantastic start, but there is much work to do. Soon to be formed committees will deal with other important issues like: Homeless Vets; PTSD; Drug and Alcohol Abuse; Agent Orange/Dioxin; and Incarcerated Vets. We need help from all Vietnam Era Vets, as well as any one interested in an Associate Membership. We invite anyone interested to attend our next meeting and talk with us. Next meeting will be on Saturday, March 7, at 7 pm, at the VA Office, 38½ Center Street. For more info call Clark or Gene at 775-6772.

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA
CHAPTER # 1
P.O. BOX 6301
RUTLAND, VT 05702

NEWSLETTER APRIL, 1992

Dear Veteran:

Chapter #1 is off to a fantastic new beginning! All our members are working hard to make the Chapter a success. Since our decision to reactivate, our membership has grown to over 30, plus 6 associate members! These numbers continue to grow.

Elections were held at our April meeting. Results are as follows:

President- Steve Faye
Vice-President- Bill Barnes
Treasurer- Clark Howland
Secretary- Beth Higgins
Board of Directors- Kym Hoerr, Jim Howley, Mike Divoll, Paul Butler, and Bill Higgins

Congratulations to all our new officers! I have asked our new President to address us all with a letter, which follows.

My name is Steve Faye, and I have been elected President of Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter #1 in Rutland, VT.

I spent 4 years in the Marine Corp, 1968-72 and was in Vietnam 69-70 with C Company 7th Motor Transport Battalion, 3rd Marine Division.

For the last 20 years, I have not wanted to get involved with any veterans organizations because I felt they didn't understand. In September 1991, a special event happened in not only my life, but also a number of people from all walks of life. That event was the "Moving Wall". It was my first encounter with the Wall, and some friends whose names are on those panels. For the first time I felt the caring of other Vets and for me, the healing process had begun.

The decision was made to revive Chapter #1, and it was a good one for me. I have met some of the most caring people who are dedicated not only to the Chapter, but also to each other. I am proud to call them my Brothers and Sisters.

My hope for the Chapter is one of total success in so that we never again have to feel alone and outcast from the world. For years I have lived with the memory of my dead friends, today I live with my living Brothers.

I was elected President of Chapter # 1 through the confidence of the Chapter. My job will be to guide the Chapter on its journey, but the only way we will become strong and successful is by total participation and a strong membership of the Chapter and it's associates.

It is your Chapter, where do you want it to go? Tell me your ideas. Thank you, Jake, for the inspiration.

Steve Faye, President
775-6946

THE CHAPTER EXTENDS ITS HAND OUT TO ALL VIETNAM VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

COLOR GUARD

Our Color Guard Committee met April 11th at the home of chairman Bill Higgins to discuss parades and uniforms. The uniform of jungle fatigues and yellow ascots and berets was kept. Patches and medals were discussed, and a working plan was developed. Bill has some uniforms that were donated to the VA Office, these will be passed out as far as they go.

The first parade on our schedule is Loyalty Day. We hope to make a big impression, so we encourage everyone to come out and march. For time and starting point, call the Vet's Assistance Office.

Also scheduled are Memorial Day parades in Essex Jct. on May 23, and Middletown Springs on May 24. Marchers are needed for both parades.

Our Color Guard has 10 M1 Rifles which are stored at Bill Barnes. In the future we will be marching with these weapons. Special thanks to Dick Johnson of West Rutland American Legion for getting us a box of blanks!

Anyone interested in more info on the Color Guard, call Bill at 468-5652 after 4 pm.

POW/MIA

Our efforts for the POW/MIA issue continue. The petition we started in December has been with our Brothers in the Vietnam Veterans of the Valley in White River Jct. It will be returning to Rutland on Loyalty Day, when it will be set up in our tent in the K-Mart plaza. Gene Miner and Jim Howley will be manning the petition, while Beth Higgins sells bracelets and stickers. We now have an assortment of POW/MIA stickers, bumper stickers, and window decals which sell for $1 each. Be sure to stop by on Loyalty Day and pick up a few!

The Northeastern POW/MIA Network, masterminded by Jim Howley, submitted a resolution on normalization of relations with certain communist and ex-communist countries to the Vermont Joint Legislature. Testimony was given by several, including the daughter of POW Col. Donald G. Cook. Further updates next newsletter.

Much is currently being heard about the POW/MIA issue. It seems to be on the news and in the papers almost daily. The time for answers in drawing near, don't give up the fight! Chapter #1 vows to never forget our captive Brothers!

MEMBERSHIP

Jim Howley was appointed chairman of this committee, with Kym Hoerr agreeing to help out. Jim has since printed up applications, which are available at the Vet's Assistance Office. At the last meeting, Jim brought in 4 new members. His suggestion was for everyone to try to sign up one new member each month. We will also be signing up members in the tent at Loyalty Day.

PUBLIC ACCESS TV

At our last meeting, Steve appointed John Bergeron chairman of this committee. John is looking into the specifics of Channel 15, the public access station in Rutland. More next time!

UPCOMING EVENTS

BAKE SALE

A bake sale will be held on Loyalty Day in the tent downtown to raise funds. Melody Hawkins is in charge of coordinating this event. Baked goods of all kinds would be most welcome, anyone wishing to donate food can drop it off at the Plaza on Sunday morning after 10:30. We will also be selling soda and coffee.

LOYALTY DAY

Also set for Loyalty Day, along with the parade, is the sale of POW/MIA items in the tent by Beth Higgins. Stop by and pick up a few stickers. Also, the Color Guard is always happy to have extra marchers.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Saturday May 2nd, at 7 pm in the Vet's Assistance Office at 38½ Center Street. Please join us!

SYMPOSIUM

We are looking into holding a symposium in the Main Street Park in September to commemorate the anniversary of the Moving Wall. We would like to have participation from the local businesses, the Cancer Society, Epilepsy Assosiation, local fire and police departments, SADD chapters, Dismas House, etc. Any and all would be welcome. Steve and Clark have been working on this, they have been mailing out letters to guage the reaction of the community. More on this next time.

MOVING WALL

We have been informed that the Moving Wall is going to be in Lake Placid, NY in July. Bill Higgins is checking into the exact dates. If you'd like more info, call Bill at 468-5652.

NORTHEAST ARMY NAVY SURPLUS

Northeast Army Navy Surplus on North Main Street in Rutland, owned and operated by Nam vet Jim Yellen and his wife Nancy, will give any Chapter # 1 members a 10% discount on merchandise. Just show them your card. Thanks for your support, Jim and Nancy!

There are a lot of things happening, and many more things which can be done. We need your help. If you aren't already a member, come to a meeting and meet us. If you are a member, show your support. We must not bow to the system, we must be true to ourselves, the time is now! Chapter #1 needs your help to meet its challenges head on! For more info, call Clark or Gene in the Vet's Assistance Office!

VIETNAM VETERAN'S OF AMERICA
CHAPTER # 1
P.O. BOX 6301
RUTLAND, VT 05702

NEWSLETTER JUNE, 1992

Dear Veteran:

Summer is upon us and everyone is busy, but let's not forget that Chapter #1 still needs each and every one of us to do our part. Remember when you're relaxing around the pool, at the beach, at the campground, with the neighbors, family or friends, YOU are what makes the Chapter work, be proud of who we are. Reach out to the veteran on the street or in the workplace who needs our help! Remember the POW/MIAs who still wait! Educate the public to the plight of the veteran! But most important, have a safe and happy summer!

The July meeting has been cancelled due to the holiday on the Fourth of July. Although we hope to see everyone at our other events this summer, the next meeting will be August 1st. Check the calendar of events for times and places to be!

LOYALTY DAY

The Bake Sale and the POW/MIA Sale held on Loyalty Day were both huge successes for first attempts at fundraising. The Color Guard looked sharp, and we were grateful for all the extra marchers! Our unit got nothing but praise for our appearance.

MEMORIAL DAY

Our Color Guard was very busy over the 2 weekends of Memorial Day, doing parades in Essex Jct., Middletown Springs, and Fair Haven, as well as a memorial service in Evergreen Cemetary.

POW/MIA

This issue continues to be in the news on a regular basis. **KEEP THE FAITH, NEVER GIVE UP!**

DD 214

Anyone who has not submitted a DD 214 yet, please remember we need to have these on file. These can be given to Beth or Steve.

BUCKLES 'N STUFF

Special thanks to Margie Young and Diane Edgecomb of Buckles 'N Stuff for the pins and belt buckles they let us sell on consignment on Loyalty Day and Memorial Day. These ladies are special friends of Chapter 1, anyone who gets up in their neck of the woods in Jeffersonville should stop in and say Hi!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JULY 3rd- FIRE ON THE MOUNTAIN II- Veterans Concert & Fireworks Display featuring Al Alessi & his Tribute to Roy Orbison 3 pm till Dusk & Fireworks at McClay Field in the Center of Windsor, VT. Admission: $5.00 age 12 & up, Great Eats Being Served. Benefit: Vietnam Veterans of the Valley.

JULY 4th- Fourth of July Parade in Randolph, VT. Parade steps off at 10 a.m. Cook-out following parade. Everyone is encouraged to participate.

JULY 11th- Castleton Fun Day Parade. Parade lines up in the old Fort Warren Drive-In, steps off at 10 a.m. Again, everyone is encouraged to participate.

JULY 13th- Opening Ceremonies of The Moving Wall in Lake Placid, NY. Chapter One has been asked to provide a Color Guard due to our prior experience with the Moving Wall. Even though this is a Monday night, let's all make an effort to go to this important event. Our friend John Devitt will be there with the Wall, let's show him what Chapter One has done in the last year! We need to be in Lake Placid by 6 p.m. Bill Higgins has more info on all parades & Color Guard events. Call him after 4 p.m.- 468-5652.

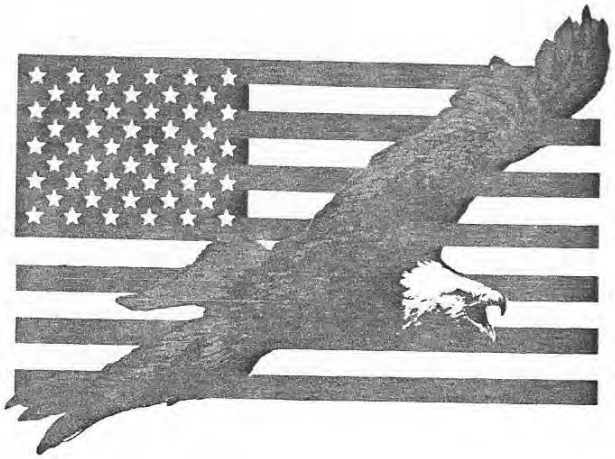
AUGUST 1st- Next VVA meeting. 7 p.m. in the Vet's Assistance Office.

AUGUST 16th- Bennington Battle Day Parade. This is one of Vermont's largest parades, mark your calendars now, more information to follow on this.

AUGUST ?- Possible Chapter Party with Vietnam Veteran's of the Valley to get acquainted. Possible location: Pasta Pete's on the mountain.

SEPTEMBER 5th- VVA meeting. 7 p.m. in the Vet's Assistance Office.

SEPTEMBER 19-20- Symposium in the Main Street Park.



THE BUNKER
VVA CHAPTER #1
P.O. Box 6301
Rutland, Vermont
05702

It is once again that time of the year for our Chapter elections of officers which will take place on April 3, 1993 at our office in the Oprah House at 7:00 pm. We encourage the participation of all members either in person or by mail. It is your chapter and the election of our officers should reflect the confidence of our members in who they elect. The following positions are open;

Position	Held by
President:	Stephen C. Faye
Vice President:	Joseph Lynch
Secretary:	Beth Higgins
Treasurer:	Clark Howland
Assoc. President:	Melody Hawkins
Board of Directors:	Jim Howley
	Paul Butler
	Kym Hoer
	Michael Duvoll
	Bill Higgins

On February 13th our Associate membership held a bake sale at the Rutland Mall and made $197.00 which is targeted for Chapter jackets. Our thanks for an excellent job done by Melody, Beth and Pappy for setting up this sale and the ones we have had in the past. The cooperation they got from the wives AND husbands to make this sale a success was overwhelming and we thank you all for participating. Our Associate Membership is a very important part of our Chapter and at times doesn't always get the recognition they truly deserve. Thank you gang!!!!!!!!!!!

The Chapter is now in the process of kicking off the HONOR THE VET PROGRAM in Rutland and encourage all our members to pass the word that this program is designed to honor all veterans by giving a discount at the different business establishments in the Rutland area and eventually go state wide. We would like the names of veteran owned businesses to give to the Veterans Assistance Office for their resource council in order to help our veterans in their businesses. For more information, please contact our office at 773-3139 or the VAO at 775-6772.

Our video people are hard at work with the tapeing of various veteran's issues and are always looking for new ideas to add to their list of tapeings. If any ideas you can contact John Bergeron or Bill Higgins at our office.

The Color Guard is getting ready to kick off another busy season with the St Patrick Day Parade in Holyoke Massachusetts on March 21st. We are in the process getting

together a list of parades and events that the chapter is participating in throughout this year and will be published in the next newsletter. The one event that we will be participating in is the dedication of Women's Memorial in Washington D.C. on November 11, 1993. We are now looking into rates for the trip and getting together a list of those who would like to go with us. More information is forth coming and we will let people know as soon as possible.

The POW Committee under the direction of Bill Higgins and Jim Howley are hard at work making sure that our POW's are not forgotten and pushing for the issue to remain at the forefront of the public's eye now that Senate Subcommittee has ended its' hearings with not much success in obtaining any vital information from the government. NOTHING NEW!!!!! Good Luck Guys and God watch over our missing from all wars.

Our membership is continuely growing and I would like to welcome all our new members, especially those from other parts of the country. We stand at about 70. Thank you all for your interest in Chapter #1. Your input into the chapter would be greatly appreciated and feel free to call any time.

We are trying to organize a get together for all members sometime this summer, and will let you know how that is going.

Our treasury stands at $460.00 right now and we are taking any suggestions for fund raisers to help increase our "kitty" so we may continue to function as a top notch chapter and be able to help our members when the need arises.

Our best wishes go out to Gene Miner on a speedy recovery after having knee surgery. Take it one day at a time Gene.

ROLLING THUNDER is coming up Memorial Day Weekend in Washington for all you motorcycle buffs. This is the annual run to the WALL for memorial services. Should be an impressive sight. Please call Bill Higgins for more details.

Presidents Note:

The chapter has come along way this past year with the members working hard to make us a unit that we can be proud of. We may not always agree with each other, but that's what makes us unique.

I would like to thank Don and Sharon from Chapter #79 over in Glenn Falls N. Y. for their help and input to the chapter. We all feel that you are part of our chapter. Your jacket is always welcome!

We have in the works a march on Concord New Hampshire, for POW/MIA recognition with a presentation to Senator Bob Smith for his dedication to the POW issue this past year. We also have a POW convention coming up hopefully May 15th in South Burlington. More information will be forth

coming.

A special thanks to the guys at the Veterans Assistance Office for all the help they have given the Chapter and it's member on a more personal note.

The annual membership renewal for the chapter and National is in full swing and if you have not received your renewal forms or your membership cards for 1993, please get hold of us immediately. We have had problems this last year with National acknowledging some of our paid members. If you have not received a card for last year and you have paid your dues, please contact us and we will try once again to resolve this issue. I know we have contacted National on several occasions to try and resolve this issue and have had no luck. We request that in the future please send all membership dues to the Chapter as we send the money to National on the 15th of every month by Certified Mail. Your help in this matter would be greatly appreciated.

If you are interested in a Chapter jacket, please let us know your jacket size, name and address. For more information, please call Steve Faye at 773-3139 or 775-6946.

Please send your nomination into the office for officers as we would like to have names of those persons who are running for a desired position.

Welcome aboard Dan Mack, A guy couldn't ask for a better friend.

Happy Birthday wishes go out to Bill Higgins on his 97th. How's that for exaggeration Bill!! Have a good one.

Special note from the VETERANS ASSISTANCE OFFICE.

VETERANS SMALL BUSINESS WORKSHOP

On Saturday April 24th, a Veterans Small Business Workshop will be held starting at 9:00 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. at six Vermont interactive tv sites around the state. For more information please call:

DIANA HARRINGTON
Senator Jeffords Office
1-800-835-5500
or
THE SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CTR
Randolph--1-800-646-7232

SEMPER FI
Steve, a.k.a.
Pres, God, Eagle

Vietnam Veterans of America
Chapter One

April, 1994 Newsletter Volume 1

President's Letter

Dear Members and Associates,

I am writing to express my sincere thanks for your confidence in my ability to lead VVA-1 in the upcoming year. I will do the best I possibly can to see that the Chapter remains a force in the community and that the comaraderie we knew in Vietnam does not die.

As you know we have had our share of difficulties in agreeing on the path VVA-1 will take in the future. I feel we have tried to do too much in too short a time. We must not take on too many projects only to go uncompleted. The projects we do take on should get a maximum effort so as to insure their results will be effective and complete.

At the present time we have the Honor The Vet program under way. Recently, not much has been accomplished in this effort as there have been only one or two members involved. To my knowledge we have ten or twelve businesses signed up in the program. This will have to increase substantially to insure the success of the project. We will be discussing ways to maximize this effort at our next meeting.

We will also be addressing issues that concern any member or associate. Please think about what you believe we should address and in what order of priority you would put these issues. Ultimately it will be you, the members, who will decide the direction we will take in the future.

Of course, the Honor The Vet project is already under way and must continue with a renewed dedication that will insure the recognition that our veterans deserve.

Another issue which will insure the continued success of VVA-1 is membership. I feel we are not properly communicating with our present membership and that it will be rather simple to correct the problem. I invite suggestions on how we can make our members feel more a part of the organization and to have them understand how important their support is to the community and, of course, to the brothers with whom they served.

Naturally there are many more issues to be discussed and much more work to be done in getting the newly elected administration indoctrinated. I will be communicating our progress to all of you through our monthly newsletter and keeping you updated on anything affecting VVA-1 and it's members. I ask your patience and understanding while going through the transition to our new administration.

Following is the list of newly elected officers of VVA-1:

President - Bill Barnes (273-2622)
Vice-President - John Bergeron
Secretary - Mike Divoll
Treasurer - Clark Howland

The Executive Board is as follows: Dick Doyle, Frank Bump, Jack Reed, Bill Higgins and Jim Howley.

Again I wish to thank all of you for your support. Together we will work to insure the continued success of our Chapter and it's members. Once our goals are clearly defined and our mission becomes clear to each one of us, I'm sure that those goals will be achieved and that the mission or missions will be completed successfully.

The next VVA-1 meeting will be at the conference room of the Opera House (lower rear entrance) at 6:00 PM on May 7th, 1994. Your attendance at the meeting will help to insure the direction of the chapter is what it's members want. Please note the date and time and do whatever you possibly can to attend.

Very respectfully,
Bill Barnes
President, VVA-1

Honor the Vet Program

Each month Chapter One will welcome any new participants in the Honor The Vet Program in the newsletter. This will acknowledge and thank the business people who are participating, as well as keep you up to date on who is offering what for a discount. When the program was launched in October, we had 13 businesses. One has since gone out of business, and the other twelve are listed below with their discounts.

BUSINESS	DISCOUNT
1. Northeast Army Navy Surplus	10%
2. Brownsville Girl Shoe Repair	10%
3. Clem's Kitchen	10%
4. State Cut Rate	10%
5. Jake's Light Trucking	10-20%
6. Adirondack Tire Merchants	10-20%
7. Pappy's Restaurant	10% + FREE coffee/dessert
8. Army Navy Store	10%
9. Ron's Sunoco	5%
10. Sal's Restaurant	10%
11. Howard's Sunoco	10%
12. Boss Threads	10-20%

Thanks to these establishments for believing in the veteran! And welcome to our newest business:

13. Michael's Handmade Wooden Toys 10-20%

Show your membership card from any veteran's organization (or other proof of service) to obtain your discount at any of these places!

Stand Down '94

Do you know a proud homeless vet?

If you do, tell him or her and their families about Stand Down '94 which will be held June 11, 12 & 13 at the NH Veteran's Home in Tilton. Sponsored by Volunteers for Homeless Vets, it will be a weekend of support and camaraderie. Vets will be able to receive information and assistance on such things as: Shelter, Meals, Food, Clothing, Medical Services, Employment and Training, Counseling, Financial Assistance, Veterans Benefits, Education, Crisis Intervention and Housing. Free services available that weekend will be: Hair Cuts, Photo IDs, A Hot Meal, Clothing, Household Goods, Medical Attention, Job Information, Social Security Information, Legal Assistance and Benefit Information. For more information or to help a Proud Homeless Vet call: Tom Norris at 543-3111 or Rick Ducey at 229-4391 or NH HELPLINE 1-800-852-3388.

Region 1 Conference

VVA Massachusetts State Council and VVA Chapter #111-Springfield will host the next Region 1 conference to be held Saturday, April 30th in Northhampton, Mass. Topics of discussion will include a POW/MIA session entitled "Where Do We Go From Here" presented by Jim Brazee, National President, and "Fund-Raising Techniques" presented by National Treasurer Carl Stout. Also presented will be "The Role/Value of Associates" presented by the National Liaison Joanne Harkins and an open forum of discussion. Anyone who would like more information can call Linda Schwartz, Region 1 Director at 203-599-5881.

Letter from the Secretary

Hello my brothers, sisters, members & associate members. Hope your Easter was a good one for you and your loved ones.

Most of you probably don't know me or maybe some of you know of me, but being recently elected secretary of VVA #1, I am honored.

I served 1966 on Yankee Station in the Gulf of Tonkin as Medic on Battle Aid Station #1 CVA64, 7th Fleet Flag. It took me over 20 years to get over that. In some respects it seems I just came home. It feels good to be back.

My brothers & sisters, the responsibility of service still runs deep. If you know of a brother that is in need, please drop me a line. I've kept my kit through all these years and it's packed but only symbolically now. I can't promise to mend all wounds, the wounds of today are different, but I can promise to try.

If you have any correspondence, old or new, any old photos, any info you would like to share, any opinions or views, please drop me a line. If you know any Era Vet, brother or friend please encourage VVA #1 membership. We could really use the help and support.

Side Note: The Constitution of this great country guarantees us the right of lawful and private assembly. When recording devices are used for whatever intention this takes away and erodes our liberty. For those of you that were exposed to these techniques in the past, I'm sorry. I promise you I will fight for those rights in the future.

Respectfully yours,
The Toymaker
Michael J. Divoli

Memorial Day Brings Motorcycle 'Rides to Remember'

As Memorial Day, 1994 rolls around again, motorcyclists across the country are preparing to ride in remembrance of the POW/MIA's. On May 29th, engines will roar across our nation's capitol, and across Vermont.

ROLLING THUNDER VII, Ride For Freedom will assemble in the North Pentagon Parking Lot at 9 am and leave at 12 noon for the ride through Washington, D.C. to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. They will be riding for the freedom of all POW/MIA's who can't speak for themselves. They will pay their respects to all the fallen brothers and sisters on the Wall, and from all wars. They will remind the US Government that we want answers to the POW/MIA issue, and we are not satisfied with the way they are handling it. Speeches and music at the Reflecting Pool will follow the ride. For more info, call Artie Muller, 908-369-5439.

VERMONT THUNDER II, Ride to Remember will assemble at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, 5 miles north of White River Junction on I-89 North between 10-11 am. There will be a wreath laying at 11 am with departure time set for noon. The ride will follow the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Highway for approximately 120 miles, finishing in Swanton at 3 pm. Events and speakers are lined up for the entire length of the ride, including flyovers of both F16s and Hueys. For more info, call Bill Fitzpatrick, 802-453-3766.

Tax Credit Program

Low income Vietnam Era Veterans are once again eligible for a Tax Credit Program. The Targeted Jobs Tax Credit Program is now in effect until December 31, 1994. Employers can get a 40% tax credit on the first $6,000 wages for low income Vietnam Era Vets. Vouchering is done by Dept. of Employment & Training. See your local D.E.T. for more details.

Renew Your Chapter One Membership

Loyalty Day Parade 1994

The Loyalty Day Parade will be held on Sunday, May 1, 1994 in Rutland. Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter One is looking for marchers to support our Honor Guard. If you can spare the time, come out and support your chapter. VVA-1 will be marching in Section 4 behind the Chester-Andover Elementary School Band. We will form up on Madison Street between Pleasant and Moree Streets. The step off time will be at 2 pm, but we ask that you be in position by 1 pm.

Discount for VVA #1 Members

Scott Thompson, owner of C & S Consulting Group in Bomoseen, VT has announced a special discount for any paid member of VVA #1. C & S Consulting Group offers computer sales, service and repair, as well as computer supplies and software. Present your membership card and receive 25% off your purchase. C & S Consulting Group pride themselves on being "The People Who Make Computers Friendly", so call them today at 802-468-5882 for solutions to all your computer problems.

Letter From The Editor

Beginning with this issue, VVA Chapter One will be sending out a monthly newsletter. As editor of this newsletter, I will try to print a paper that is interesting and informative, as well as creative. I welcome your suggestions and comments on ways of making it a better paper.

The newsletter will be the main communication link of the chapter, one that has been missing for too long. It is essentially your newsletter. I will be happy to print articles you think would be of interest to others. Hopefully we will be printing committee reports and news from other organizations. I will also be happy to print your thoughts and opinions, poetry, pictures, letters, or anything else you think is important.

However, I do reserve the right to edit things according to offensive content, space requirements, or actual importance. All editing will be done with the consent of the President and Vice-President. Above all we will be trying to print a newsletter that is a class act. Only the best will do for VVA Chapter One!!

Deadline for copy is the 15th of every month. There will be no exceptions to this rule; it is your responsibility to get your articles to me in time. You may send them to me c/o the Chapter, marked Attn: Newsletter, or directly to my home address; Beth Higgins, RD # 1 Box 88A, Castleton, VT 05735. The newsletter will be edited, typed, printed and mailed by no later than the 25th of the month.

Sincerely,
Beth Higgins, Editor

A Letter Home

Dear Mom and Dad, the war is done,
my task is through;
and Mom, there's something
I must ask of you.

I have a friend, O such a friend,
he has no home you see;
and so Mom, I'd really like
to bring him home with me.

Dear Son, we don't mind
if someone comes home with you;
I'm sure he could stay,
perhaps a week or two.

Dear Mom and Dad, there' something you must know,
now please don't be alarmed;
My friend in battle was recently shot,
and now he has no arm.

Dear Son, don't be afraid
to bring him home with you;
perhaps he could stay
a day or two.

Dear Mom and Dad, but Mom, he's not just a friend,
he's like a brother too;
that's why I want him home with us,
and like a Son to you.

Before you give your answer Mom,
I really don't want to beg;
but my friend in battle was recently wounded,
and also lost a leg.

Dear Son it hurts me so much to say,
the answer must be no;
for Dad and I have no time
for a boy who is crippled so.

So months went by and a letter came,
it said their Son had died;
when they read the cause of death,
the shock was "SUICIDE".

Days later when the casket came,
draped in the Nations flag;
they saw their Son lying there,
--without an arm--without a leg.

Gunny Hiles, TX

"It's not the price you paid to join, it's the price you paid to become eligible."

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA
CHAPTER ONE
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Membership in Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter One is open to all Vietnam Era Veterans. Associate Membership is open to family members, friends, and concerned citizens.

Return this form with $20 annual membership dues and a copy of your DD-214 (if applicable) to:

Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter One
PO Box 6301
Rutland, VT 05702

Name:_____

Address:_____

City:_____ State:_____ Zip:_____

Home Phone:_____

_____ Vietnam Era _____ New _____ Renewal

_____ Associate _____ New _____ Renewal

Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter One
P. O. Box 6301
Rutland, VT 05702

Please Forward

Don Edwards
35 Brickyard Rd
Essex Jct VT 05453

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SOUTH BURLINGTON VT 05403-6148
RETURN TO SENDER

Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter One

RUTLAND REPUBLIC OF VERMONT

August, 1994 • Newsletter • Volume 3

All Night Vigil & Prayer Service Planned

On Saturday, September 3, 1994, we the members of VVA #1 (Vietnam Veterans of America), the first chapter formed in the USA would like to invite you to our all night vigil and sunrise prayer service on the Rt. 7 common (park), Rutland VT. This service is in commemoration of the Moving Wall placed on that site 3 years ago. We consider that area hallowed ground and wish to extend to you our invitation for your presence while we pay our respect and commemorate our fallen, together in unity.

We will secure and grid the perimeter on the Friday night before in preparation for your arrival. An area will be designated for iron, hardware, displays. We plan to break down shortly after the sunrise prayer service on the Sunday morning. We respect and understand all time schedules of all the corp., guests & friends during the course of the Vigil.

Your participation in this service will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,
Michael J. Divoll
Sec. VVA #1, 773-1488, FAX 747-0123

V.A.O. Update

If you have walked past 95 Crescent Street recently you may have noticed some changes. Oh! for those of you who do not know, this is the address of the future Veteran Home. Thanks to Bob Rummel and son the lawn has been mowed and the yard has been picked up. We were anticipating on starting the renovations earlier in the summer, but as is par for the course, unforeseen circumstances prevented us from doing so.

The V.A.O. Board has hired a Straw Boss to oversee the project. He is Chester Hallock, and he will work directly under Bob Rummel. Along with Mr. Hallock we are going to need volunteers to do various jobs on the site So if you have any skills in the construction trade WE NEED YOU!!!! Even if all you know how to do is RIPPIN' 'N TEARIN, (like Moi) we will need your skill also. If you would like to volunteer, please call Clark at 775-6772.

Our goal for this year is to complete the East Wing and move the V.A.O. into that space.
If you get a chance stop in and show your support.

Memorabilia Wanted, Meeting Place Changed

If you have any photos of the event held in 1991, we could use them to use in our display, which will be shown during the weekend of the commemoration. Please get them to us 2 or 3 days before. Thank you.

Seeing that Saturday, September 3rd is our monthly meeting, we may as well have it at the park. In case of rain we will have a tent. Board meeting is at 1700 hours and regular meeting at 1800 hours. Let's have a good turn out for this one.

If you have input regarding the vigil - please advice - hopefully this will be an annual event. We need your input!!

Honor the Vet Program

Each month Chapter One will welcome any new participants in the Honor The Vet Program in the newsletter. This will acknowledge and thank the business people who are participating, as well as keep you up to date on who is offering what for a discount. The current participants are listed below with their discounts.

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1. Northeast Army Navy Surplus	10%
2. Brownsville Girl Shoe Repair	10%
3. Clem's Kitchen	10%
4. Jake's Light Trucking	10-20%
5. Adirondack Tire Merchants	10-20%
6. Pappy's Restaurant	10% + FREE coffee/dessert
7. Army Navy Store	10%
8. Ron's Sunoco	5%
9. Sal's Restaurant	10%
10. Howard's Sunoco	10%
11. Boss Threads	10-20%
12. Michael's Handmade Wooden Toys	10-20%
13. Buxton's Sunoco	5% off labor & parts
14. Bob's Hunting & Fishing	2%

This month VVA #1 sends our warmest wishes for a happy retirement to George Looker of State Cut Rate, who has closed his business to enjoy life in the slow lane. Thanks for the support in the past, and good luck in the future! We'll miss you!

Thanks to all these establishments for believing in the veteran! Show your membership card from any veteran's organization (or other proof of service) to obtain your discount at any of these places!

Bring Your Flag, Bring Your Family, And Bring A Chair

The Moving Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall will be at the Vermont Veterans Home in Bennington from August 28th until September 10th. VVA #601 of Bennington has been working on this event for quite some time, and they have planned a full slate of activities.

John Miner, Moving Wall Committee Chairman has asked us to publish the schedule of events in this month's newsletter. Everyone should try to make time for a trip to Bennington during the two weeks.

Opening ceremonies will be at 1:00 PM on Sunday, September 28th with many distinguished guests and Honor Guards in attendance. The Master of Ceremonies will be Col. Joseph Krawzcyk. Prayers will be offered by Rev. Ernest Varga, and the National Anthem will be played by the Black Rose Band. Speakers will include VVA Region 1 Director Linda Schwartz, Brig. General Tom O'Donovan, with the keynote speaker being Lieutenant Governor Barbara Snelling. Following the opening ceremonies, the Wall will be open for public viewing.

Highlights of Schedule of Events for the Moving Wall

Sat., Aug. 27 - Set-up of Wall; Black Rose Band to play at American Legion Post #13 in evening.

Sun., Aug. 28 - Opening Ceremonies; Public Viewing begins; Reading of the names begins.

Mon., Aug. 29 - "Vietnam - A Personal History", slide show by Col. R. Maskiell in the Crisp Multi-Purpose Room at 7:00 PM

Tues., Aug. 30 - Washington County Band to play at 7:00 PM; Ed Lynch from VA hospital on site from 10 till 4.

Fri., Sept. 2 - Black Rose Band to play at the gazebo at 7:00 PM.

Sept. 3rd - 6th - Locator Service for families & friends who wish more information or contact with relatives or veterans.

Sat., Sept. 3rd - American Legion ceremonies at 10 am; Northeast POW/MIA Network ceremony at 1 pm; VFW ceremonies at 5 pm; Northeast POW/MIA Network candlelight ceremony at 9 pm.

Sun. Sept. 4 - Women's Day ceremonies for Gold Star Parents at 12 noon; Women in the Armed Services ceremony at 1:30 pm; 14th VT Civil War Regiment to do taps & rifle salute ceremony at 8 pm.

Tues., Sept. 6 - School tours begin & will continue throughout the week.

Thur., Sept. 8 - Gov. Dean to give an address at the Moving Wall to VVH Board of Trustees with Gen. Edwards & Rev. Varga at 11:30 am. Chaplin's candlelight ceremony at 9 pm.

Sat., Sept. 10 - Closing ceremony by the Moving Wall Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall Committee of Bennington County; Taps Only.

Reading of the names will continue daily; Taps played nightly at 8 PM.

Bring Your Flag, Bring Your Family, And Bring A Chair

Fair Haven Vigil Group has full slate of events planned

The Fair Haven POW/MIA Vigil Group recently passed their first year anniversary. One year of vigils has come and gone and still they are the only group in the state of Vermont. This group of concerned citizens have met every week in the Veterans Memorial Park in the center of Fair Haven on Thursday nights at 7 pm in the best and worst of weather. 21 Minutes to Remember! Public is invited to attend.

On Saturday, September 3rd, the group is staging a POW/MIA Ride-In. Leaving from the park in Fair Haven at 10:30 a.m., it will proceed down Rt. 30 to Manchester where it will meet with another group from Chester. They will then take Rt. 7A to Bennington to the Moving Wall for their POW/MIA Day ceremonies.

In keeping with the group's policy of educating the public, on Thursday, September 8th they will host a group of Boy Scouts, their leaders and some of their parents from nearby Granville, NY. Following the vigil, the group will talk with the boys, and special guest speaker will be Earl Morrow of Hartford, NY. Mr. Morrow captain of a bomber in WWII who was shot down and captured in November, 1944.

On Friday, September 9th, there will be a special vigil, also held at 7 PM, with special guest speaker, Michael Durant of nearby New Hampshire. In case anyone doesn't remember, Mike Durant was captured in Somalia. Mike is provided to the vigil by the Northeast POW/MIA Network.

Durant is also one of the speakers for Vermont POW/MIA Recognition Day ceremonies to be held at Camp Johnson in Colchester on Saturday, September 10th. Public is invited to attend this annual event.

All the POWs are not home YET!

Joe Yandle: A Brother In Need

Joe Yandle could have been your buddy. Or he could have been you. Fate put Joe in the wrong place at the wrong time. Now, Joe has a second chance. He needs our help.

Perhaps you read Joe's story in the August issue of the Veteran. Maybe you saw him on 60 Minutes August 21st. In case you didn't, let me update you.

Joe Yandle enlisted in the Marines at the age of 17 in 1967. He went to Vietnam, did two tours and he came home with a $500 a day heroin habit. Getting no help from the VA, or anyone else, Yandle's habit intensified.

In June of 1972, Joe Yandle drove the getaway car for another addict during a liquor store robbery. But the robbery went wrong, and the store owner was killed. After later turning himself in, Yandle received the same sentence as the man who pulled the trigger; life in prison without parole.

During the time that Joe Yandle has been in prison, he has accomplished a great deal. He has kicked the drug habit, gotten married, & fathered a child. He has also gotten his GED, and associate's degree, bachelor's degree, and is studying for his master's degree, all in liberal arts. He has worked within VVA in the incarcerated vets program, and served as Mass. State Council president.

The campaign to free Joe Yandle has been going for some time. A commutation request has been boosted by the support of VVA National. This would result in Joe Yandle's freedom, with conditions of life on parole.

Many people have come out in favor of commutation. The Mass. Advisory Board of Pardons voted unanimously, with one abstention for a release. A member of the Governor's Council also came forward and voiced his support. Owen M. McNamara, Mass. deputy commissioner of veterans affairs also believes Yandle should be freed.

Apparently the only person who can't make up his mind about Joe Yandle is Governor William Weld. Unfortunately, he is the one who can let Yandle out. It is speculated that Weld may be afraid of the scandal that affected Mike Dukakis's run for president in lieu of the Willy Horton fiasco. Should politics rule in this case?

Joe Yandle needs your help! Express your opinion on his commutation request in a letter, which can be mailed to the following address:

Gov. William F. Weld
Rm. 360/State House
Boston, MA 02133
Telephone: 617-727-9173

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA, CHAPTER ONE

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Membership in Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter one is open to all Vietnam Era Veterans. Associate Membership is open to family members, friends, and concerned citizens. Return this form with $20 annual membership dues and a copy of your DD-214 (if applicable) to: Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter One, PO Box 6301, Rutland, VT 05702. Upon receipt of your dues, Chapter One will issue a temporary membership card like the one below. This will serve as your authorized membership card until you receive one from National.

Name:_____

Address:_____

City:_____State:____ Zip:_____

Home Phone: _____

_____Vietnam Era _____New ____Renewal

_____Associate _____New ____Renewal

Vietnam Veterans of America
Chapter One

This is to certify that
John Doe
is a member in good standing of the
Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter #1
Sgt. Pepper
Authorized Signature
Temporary Membership Card

Windows of the Soul

Many times I have looked at other individuals and have noticed a distinctive presence in the eyes. It is a very familiar presence, one that I have seen in window reflections or reflections in a mirror. It is a presence that begs for freedom. Not only freedom to, but a plea for freedom from.

I have seen this presence in what other individuals casually call day dreaming, but the presence is not comforting. I have seen this presence intrude during times when others are filled with cheer. But there is no sparkle in the eye. I have noticed this presence in the eyes of individuals who are isolated in a crowd. Freedom, both to and from, is the plea. I have noticed this presence in individuals who society would call successful, and those society disdains. I have seen this unspoken plea from the rich and the poor. It is always in the eyes. No words must be spoken to know that we share a common bond, or more appropriately defined, a common bondage. Freedom to, and freedom from.

Freedom, you ask. This is a free country. The most free in the world. There is political freedom, personal freedom, the list goes on and on. What more freedom do you need? I can only respond as others would, freedom to, and freedom from.

Freedom to and freedom from is not a euphemistic plea, but one that is very, very real. Freedoms that others would define as emotions really. Freedoms that cannot be touched, only felt.

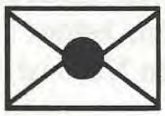
The freedom to love would top my list: The freedom to love, trust, and show affection: to feel these emotions without fear, fear of the hurt that follows the split second separation that I became accustomed to and weary of many years ago. The freedom that my innocence allowed, innocence that was defiled in a far away land.

The freedom from the horror that I witnessed and participated in, and the anger, rage, isolation and fear that I feel today. The memories and the dreams.

The freedom to, and the freedom from.

Alan Davis Sortore, 1988

Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter One
P.O. Box 6301
Rutland, VT 05702
Please Forward



An empty mailbox means an
empty newsletter!
Send in your articles!

"Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter #1 will assist Vietnam Era Veterans, their families and others in the enhancement of their life experience through intervention and social interaction."

Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter One

October, 1994 • Newsletter • Volume 5

From the Desk of John Bergeron, Vice President

Greetings from your V.P. For those of you who missed the last meeting, I must say you missed a good one. Our guest speaker Jim Davidson proved to be of immense help. He was insightful and provided us (VVA #1) with a wealth of information so that we are able to begin our consolidation of our records past and present.

Also we will be able to make sure that VVA #1's history will be documented and made available for all to see. I know that when I first joined VVA #1 in '91 I was very much in the dark about the organization. I would get dribs and drabs, but felt that part of the story was still missing. I am sure that I was not alone. So therefore a history book about VVA #1 is imperative. Mr. Davidson made it known to us that he will be available at any time.

Here are some of his suggestions:

~ Place all of our records on microfilm
~ This can be done at "Public Records"
~ Gather all financial and secretarial reports
~ Make sure we are incorporated with the state
~ Video or audio tape members

Excuse me a minute while I get on my soap box - there! During my brief time with VVA #1 there has been a great deal of bad mouthing National for various reasons. True some are valid - for instance membership, mega-problems. But National seems to be making a concerted effort to rectify the problem.

BUT! Let's not place the brunt of our problems on some one else. Of late I have been going through #1's records and unopened mail from as far back as June of this year. Each month National sends each chapter a packet of info. Each packet contains: updated printouts of the membership; forms that need to be filled out by the board; various miscellaneous articles of interest; info on this years convention in Colorado this month.

So the moral of this story is: Let's get our house in order before we place the blame on others!!! There have been members in the past who have made attempts at putting our house in order but were thwarted - Let's not drop the ball this time!!

Search & Rescue Mission

Somewhere in the Fair Haven area is a rather large piece of marble. It was last seen on River Street.

Sometime in the spring of 1981, the Vermont Marble Co. gave John Reno a slab of marble. John was to sculpt a life-size statue of a Vietnam veteran and donate it to VVA #1. According to Don Bodette, John never finished the project because he met with an untimely death. It would be nice to find the slab of marble and finish what John had started.

If you have any information, contact John at: 747-4060 days or 775-7577 evenings.

Honor the Vet Program

Each month Chapter One will welcome any new participants in the Honor The Vet Program in the newsletter. This will acknowledge and thank the business people who are participating, as well as keep you up to date on who is offering what for a discount. The current participants are listed below with their discounts.

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6. Pappy's Restaurant	10% + FREE coffee/dessert
7. Army Navy Store	10%
8. Ron's Sunoco	5%
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10. Howard's Sunoco	10%
11. Boss Threads	10-20%
12. Michael's Handmade Wooden Toys	10-20%
13. Buxton's Sunoco	5% off labor & parts
14. Bob's Hunting & Fishing	2%

Thanks to all these establishments for believing in the veteran! Show your membership card from any veteran's organization (or other proof of service) to obtain your discount at any of these places!

Do you know of a business who might like to participate in The Honor The Vet Program? This program sets a precedent in the state, & to be strong, it needs businesses. Contact Bill Barnes at 265-8755 or John Bergeron at 747-4060 to have a rep. visit the business & explain the program.

"Moving Wall " Moved Me

I'm standing at the Moving Wall on August 28, 1994 in Bennington, VT looking at the name of Peter A. Cook, a KIA I knew from my unit. A color guard member comes up, puts down a wreath and says "Here's to you, Peter Cook." The following conversation gave me leads on his family and his location.

3 days later, Wednesday, August 31, 1994 I was standing beside his grave in North Adams, MA for the first time since his death 24+ years ago. I've contacted his family and will be meeting them soon.

Coincidence?? I don't think so.

Submitted by Dick Doyle

Video Heads Wanted!!

If you have a video camera and would like to be a part of this historical project, we sure could use you. If you were to accept this mission you would need to do the following:

Go into the homes of various members and interview them. We suggest their homes because they may feel more at ease, and they may also have pictures, clippings and other memorabilia that you may also tape.

We Honor Our Vets

BROWNSVILLE GIRL SHOE REPAIR

John Bergeron
Owner

20 Center Street
Rutland, VT 05701
(802) 747-4060
Tues.-Fri. 8:00-5:30
Sat. 8:00-Noon

Vets Assistance Office Update

Paul Albro has joined the Board of Directors as of July.

Progress has been swift thanks to the many volunteers who have been working on the weekends at the Veterans Home on 95 Crescent St. Sheet rock is just about completed and ready for paint. The only problem we seem to be having is getting a plumber down there, because without a plumber some of the finish work is held up. But I hear through the grapevine that one may have been located and is willing to give us a hand.

Skip Carlton of WJJR fame has been doing live on location broadcasts at the home on Saturdays. Skip plans on doing this on every other weekend. Because of the broadcast we have gotten a few new volunteers. Thanks Skip!

We have extended the work party to Sunday from 9-4. Anyone is welcome to help even if you bring coffee and food!

B.R.O.C. is going to be installing a State of the Art furnace and giving us windows. Thanks to them. Oh, they are also blowing in insulation!

Membership Renewals Due

The VVA 1995 Renewal Campaign begins during the month of October. Soon you will be getting your renewal notices from National, if you haven't already.

Beginning with the 1995 Renewal, a 3 year membership option will be available. At $50, this option offers a $10 dollar savings over renewing yearly.

Please remember to renew through your chapter. Sending your renewal forms and dues directly to the chapter enables us to keep better membership records. This helps you if you have problems later on with National, such as no membership card or not recieving the Veteran.

Because of the problems we have had with National's failure to issue membership cards, temporary cards will be issued soon. Help us to update our records. If you paid dues in 1994, but never got a card, please let Clark know at 775-6772. If you renewed through National, your cancelled check will entitle you to a temporary card.

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For Your Information...

Past documents reveal Senator Leahy's position on POW/MIA's and the copyright issue

During John's recent examination of unopened mail, the following documents were found. The first is from the Congressional Record for Wednesday, January 26, 1994, and the second is a letter to VVA #1 dated March 11, 1994. Although outdated, they provide insight into the views of our elected official.

MR. LEAHY. Mr. President, it has been more than 30 years since the first American soldier arrived in Vietnam, and almost two decades since the last American soldier came home. Over 43 million Americans, and over half the population of Vietnam, were not yet born when the war ended.

The Vietnam war was a monumental tragedy for both our countries. More bombs were dropped on Vietnam than in World War II and the Korean war combined. Over 58,000 American soldiers, and over 3 million Vietnamese, so many of them civilians, died. For Vietnam, the American war was only the last chapter in a long history of violent conflict, beginning with the Chinese, the Japanese, and the French. Today, Vietnam remains among the poorest countries in the world, with an average per capita income of a few hundred dollars a year.

We went to Vietnam believing we were invincible, only to see our country torn apart over the war. We came home stunned that our enormous firepower could not defeat such a tiny foe. Yet, despite that experience, we are today the world's only superpower.

In the 18 years since the Vietnam war, each of us who was alive then has dealt with the legacy of Vietnam in our own way. When I came to the Senate in 1974, I promised myself that I would do everything possible to prevent our country from making such a terrible mistake again. I became the only Vermonter serving in the Congress to vote to end the war.

I have also found ways to help our Vietnam veterans, for whom I have the greatest respect, and I have supported efforts to locate the remains of our POW/MIA's. For example, we provide assistance through the foreign aid bill to help locate remains of POW/MIA's.

I started a fund in the foreign aid program that has been used to aid Vietnamese who were disabled from war injuries. Those funds have been used to make artificial limbs for some of the more than 60,000 amputees in Vietnam, regardless of which side they supported in the war. We have also given aid to orphans in Vietnam.

Throughout this period, United States-Vietnamese relations have stayed essentially in limbo. Diplomatic relations have remained severed. The United States has kept its trade embargo against Vietnam, and Vietnamese assets are still frozen. In a very real sense, although the last shot was fired long ago, the Vietnam war has not yet ended.

This is so despite the end of the cold war which got us into Vietnam in the first place, the disintegration of the Soviet Union, and even as we give billions of dollars in aid to Russia and most-favored-nation status for China.

Mr. President, I support this amendment. The embargo is an anachronism, and it is self-defeating. It has been maintained primarily because of the POW/MIA issue, but I am convinced that by maintaining the embargo we only prolong the ordeal of finding out what happened to our remaining POW/MIA's.

We also impede many other United States interests in Vietnam - interests in the stability of Southeast Asia, in promoting democracy and human rights, and in expanding economic markets for American business.

In a world dramatically different from when we left Vietnam, our challenge today is to devise a policy towards Vietnam that has the best chance of furthering these interests, and to finally put the tragedy of the war behind us.

None of us will be completely satisfied until every thread of evidence that might contain a clue about what happened to our POW/MIA's has been pursued. There is no doubt that the Vietnamese Government has not always been forthcoming or consistent about the information in its possession about our POW/MIA's. It has withheld information in an effort to gain advantage or to obtain concessions from us.

But this thorny issue is not black and white. Only this year did our Government turn over several million pages of United States-held documents that will help the Vietnamese solve some to their own 300,000 MIA cases.

After 18 years, are continued diplomatic isolation and economic sanctions likely to cause Vietnam to do what it has not done during all that time? Or is the Vietnamese Government more likely to change through greater political, diplomatic, economic and social contacts with the United States?

The truth is that the past policy of denying Vietnam the benefits of diplomatic relations and trade produced little results. Yet in the past 2 years, progress on the POW/MIA issue has been dramatic. Why? Because of the efforts by President Bush, General Vessey, and President Clinton to encourage cooperation.

We now have a permanent POW/MIA office in Hanoi. Our people have access to all military museums, and have been to the prisons. They have looked into every live sighting report. Americans are working closely with Vietnamese to resolve remaining questions about these cases. Our people are in the jungles of Vietnam today searching for remains. Over the past year, 60 sets of remains have been repatriated. We have received thousands of documents and artifacts, and

the number of discrepancy cases has been reduced from 196 to 80. Those remaining 80 cases are being investigated.

All of this has happened in the past 2 years, because we gave the Vietnamese incentives to cooperate. According to the deputy commander of the United States task force in Hanoi, "When we started there was suspicion and mistrust. We've worked long and hard to develop a sense of mutual trust***. It's mind-boggling how much cooperation we now have ***(The Vietnamese) are doing their best to cooperate with us."

Mr. President, we cannot keep punishing Vietnam forever. We will only jeopardize the very process we want to encourage as we continue to inflict hardship on a society that has suffered terribly for generations.

There is much that needs to change in Vietnam. Gross human rights abuses, including arrests of political dissidents, arbitrary detention, unfair political trials, torture and abuse of prisoners in forced labor camps continue. Until there is substantial improvement in human rights, relations between our countries will suffer.

There is abundant evidence that Vietnam is involved in the thriving Asian black-market trade in endangered species. Vietnam is a wholesale supplier for tigers, leopards, and other rare species. Many of these animals are protected under Vietnamese law and international treaty, but enforcement is almost nonexistent.

But I believe that even in human rights and other areas in which we differ, Vietnam will change more through increased contact with the west than from further isolation. If the Vietnamese Government wants the benefits of trade, it will have to accept the influx of foreign business and all the changes it inevitably brings. The Vietnamese Government cannot on the one hand participate in the global economy, and at the same time censor every conversation, magazine, or radio broadcast it disagrees with.

If Vietnam wants to be treated as an equal, it cannot continue to engage in activities that are abhorrent to the international community.

Mr. President, during the Vietnam war America's leaders said time and again that we were fighting to protect democracy, but our actions often belied those words, and in the end we failed. When the fighting stopped, Vietnam was no closer to being a democracy.

Today, as we strive to make democracy and human rights a central goal of our foreign policy, we need to recognize that the policy of isolating and punishing Vietnam has failed. But just as on the POW/MIA issue, we can make progress in other areas by giving Vietnam incentives to change. Lifting the embargo is one incentive. Diplomatic recognition is another. We have many ways of using leverage through our foreign aid program, and our position in the multilateral development banks.

So, Mr. President, there are many ways that we can encourage Vietnam to deal with the POW/MIA issue and many other differences. But the embargo is a vestige of a war that should never have happened, and of a policy based on ignorance, lies, confusion, and weakness. We owe it to ourselves, and to the Vietnamese people who never wanted a war with us, to finally show that for us, like them, the war is finally over.

****

Dear Friends:

I appreciate your comments about ownership of the copyright of the design of "The Three Servicemen" statue at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, DC.

I understand your interest in having this wonderful and moving statue belong to all Americans. The nonprofit Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, Inc. (Fund) was authorized by law to establish at no cost to the Government, a memorial "in honor and recognition of the men and women of the Armed Services of the United States who served in the Vietnam War." The Vietnam Veterans Memorial, which resulted, is comprised of the memorial wall, flagpole, and the bronze sculpture called the Three Servicemen Statue.

When the Vietnam Veterans Memorial was conveyed to the Federal Government, the designer of the statue and the Fund expressly retained the copyright to the Three Servicemen Statue. The Fund uses its share of the proceeds to assist in the long-term maintenance of the memorial wall as well as for renovation and the engraving of additional names.

The National Park Service administers and maintains the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, but it does not own the copyright on this statue. The government could gain control over the copyright only if the designer and the Fund transferred the copyright to the government.

The Three Servicemen Statue is not the only copyrighted outdoor sculpture on public land in Washington, DC. The sculptures for the Navy Memorial and the Law Enforcement Officers Memorial are also copyrighted.

Thank you for sharing your concerns.

Please keep in touch.

Sincerely,
Patrick J. Leahy, United States Senator

Golden Pride/Rawleigh
Distributor
Juanita "*Kym*" Hoerr
802-483-6533
HANDCRAFTED JEWELRY

Remember the POW/MIA's on Nov. 8th

As Election Day draws near it is important to remember that the right to vote for our chosen representatives was given to each of us in the Constitution. We must hold Government accountable for their actions, and if they fail to serve the people, then they should be replaced.

For your education, I submit to you the following excerpt from the platform of Matt Mulligan, candidate for U.S. Senate. A politician who addresses the issue of live POW/MIAs. Incredible, isn't it?

ON THE POW/MIA ISSUE: "The men and women who were left behind in the prison camps of Southeast Asia gave their all for their country and ours, and were then betrayed and deserted by the nation they had fought to defend. We cannot abandon these patriots or ignore indefinitely the issues raised by their absence. This intolerable situation, the lies told to us by our government, and the continuous cover-up our leaders have engaged in MUST be honestly and thoroughly investigated, or our national conscience will be forever stained. If these prisoners are not located and freed NOW, and the lies are not stopped NOW, we will never be able to live with ourselves as a nation."

How many other politicians have served the needs of the *live* American POW/MIA? In a year that has seen the US Government make large steps toward normalization of relations with Vietnam, I think you know the answer.

Together Always,
Don
Donald C. Amorosi

Cares and Concerns

Jack Reed and Melody Hawkins have both recently been hospitalized. VVA #1 wishes both a speedy recovery.

Sympathy is extended to Jake Jacobson whose father recently passed away.

Martha Raye died on October 19th at the age of 78. Colonel Maggie entertained troops tirelessly during WWII, Korea and Vietnam. She was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom last November by President Clinton for her "great courage, kindness and patriotism." She will be greatly missed.

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VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA, CHAPTER ONE

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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Name:_____

Address:_____

City:_____ State:____ Zip:_____

Home Phone: _____

_____Vietnam Era _____New ____Renewal

_____Associate _____New ____Renewal

Vietnam Veterans of America
Chapter One

This is to certify that
John Doe
is a member in good standing of the
Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter #1
Sgt. Pepper
Authorized Signature
Temporary Membership Card

VETERANS DAY

Veteran's Day ceremonies will be held at The Rutland American Legion Post #31, 33 Washington Street. The services will start at 11:00 AM on Friday the 11th of November. All organizations are invited to attend. If you are available to participate in the Chapter One Color Guard, call John at 747-4060.

Also on Veterans Day, a ceremony honoring Williston Veterans who have served our country in the twentieth century will be held at the Williston Town Hall, 722 Williston Road, Williston. They will take place at 10:30 AM. A memorial to two Air National Guard Aviators killed in Williston will also be dedicated.

VVA Chapter One was invited to attend this event, however, we were unable to since most of our members will be working. However, if you are able, please attend these or any other ceremonies near you.

Also on Veterans Day, an Open House will be held from Noon to 4 PM at the Dodge Veterans House at 95 Crescent Street. Everyone is welcome to come and see the progress that has been made on the house.

Support Your Newsletter!

Beginning this month, Chapter #1 is selling space in our newsletter for advertising. By doing this, we will raise money for the newsletter committee to use for publishing and mailing the monthly newsletter. Also, we will promote the businesses or causes of our local business owners, veterans and non-veterans alike.

Space will be available at the following rates:

Business Card Size	$5.00 per month
1/4 page	$10.00 per month
1/2 page	$20.00 per month
Full page	$40.00 per month

Mail your ads each month to either:

Beth Higgins, RD #1, Box 88A, Castleton, VT 05735

or

John Bergeron, 20 Center St., Rutland, VT 05701

Deadline for advertising will be the 15th of each month.

Articles Needed For Newsletter

This is your newsletter. We try to fill it with as much information as we can find, but we need your help. We need your articles, letters to the editor, poetry, artwork, newspaper clippings, upcoming events, or anything else you think might be interesting to other members of the chapter. Without you, this newsletter & this chapter cannot succeed!! Send your articles to: Beth Higgins, RD #1 Box 88A, Castleton, VT 05735 or John Bergeron, 20 Center St., Rutland, VT 05701.

Next Meeting November 5th

The next meeting of Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter #1 will be held Saturday, November 5th at 6:00 PM in the Conference Room of the Opera House. Please try to attend.

Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter One
P.O. Box 6301
Rutland, VT 05702

Please Forward

We Salute Our Fallen Heroes On Veterans Day

"Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter #1 will assist Vietnam Era Veterans, their families and others in the enhancement of their life experience through intervention and social interaction."

Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter One

November, 1994 • Newsletter • Volume 5

From the Desk of John Bergeron, Vice President

Lost and...*Found*

It was a dark and cold night as I sat in my 1986 Ford Tempo with low mileage and little rust. Peering out the window I was thinking that tonight my quest would come to and end thanks to Jim. He is a life long resident of the area an he gave me directions to this dark secluded dirt road. He had told me that on every Veterans Day at about 10:52 a bright light would appear on this hill. It had to be what I was looking for all this time.

As I stepped out of my white 1986 Ford Tempo into the cold autumn night, I pulled up my collar and reached into my pocket for my flashlight, the one with the batteries advertised on TV with that stupid pink bunny. As I stepped into the field the batteries went dead. As I was cursing that pink bunny I became aware of the sounds of the night and that they had become louder and that staring out of the woods were these red glowing eyes. They seemed to float along the ground and follow my every step.

As I reached the foot of the hill my heart began to pound with excitement. With each step up the hill the excitement intensified and then I tripped or was I grabbed by this demon hand which poked through the earth or was it a petrified cow patty? Whatever it was I would not be delayed any further. As I peered over the crest of the hill there it was like a beacon in the night, an angel from heaven...Actually it looked more like the $1.98 lightbulb that I recently purchased from K-Mart.

YES! I shouted! High Fives all around, pink bunny, Jim, those red eyes.

But! Then it struck me, how was I going to get a six ton piece of marble home!!

Yes folks, I have found the piece of marble but not in such a dramatic fashion as so eloquently stated above.

On Saturday, November 12, 1994 I decided to take a ride to Fair Haven and see if I could make some contacts. I spent more time looking for River Street than it did finding the actual marble. I found the approximate area where it was delivered. There were only five buildings and one was a grocery store.

So I began to knock on doors and take names. One hour later I had found the person who had possession of the slab. Unfortunately he was not at home, something about this thing called deer hunting. His wife told me to call that evening and he would help me. I called promptly at seven, he confirmed that he did indeed have the piece and that he would show it to me that coming Tuesday morning. As much as I hated to delay this any further I had no choice.

Tuesday finally came and we got to see this unfinished work. It was well hidden even though it was only a few feet from Old Rt. 4A. So after 13 years, it was rediscovered and hopefully will take on a new life of its own. I never did ask him if we could have it, he just went ahead and offered it to us. By the way the gentleman who has had this marble is Pete Ruby of Fair Haven.

Now we have it, "What do we do with it?" Any Suggestions?

Note: John has pictures of how far John Reno had gotten. Due to the photos being extremely dark, we were unable to print them in the newsletter.

Articles Needed For Newsletter

This is your newsletter. We try to fill it with as much information as we can find, but we need your help. We need your articles, letters to the editor, poetry, artwork, newspaper clippings, upcoming events, or anything else you think might be interesting to other members of the chapter. Without you, this newsletter & this chapter cannot succeed!!

Send your articles to:
Beth Higgins, RD #1 Box 88A, Castleton, VT 05735
or
John Bergeron, 20 Center St., Rutland, VT 05701.

Honor the Vet Program welcomes 3 new businesses

This month the Honor the Vet Program is happy to welcome 3 new businesses.

Kym-Je Jewelers is owned and operated by our own Kym Hoerr, retired colonel in the US Army. Specializing in Handcrafted Jewelry, Kym-Je is located in Brandon and can be seen displayed at craft fairs and exhibits around the area. Kym also does custom work. Kym-Je Jewelers is offering a 10% discount to veterans.

C & Consulting Group is owned by Scott K. Thompson, currently a lieutenant in the National Guard, 10th Mtn. Division. C & S specializes in custom computer system design and custom programming. They feature sales, service & repair, and are offering a 20% to veterans.

Lauro's Restaurant is located on State Street in Rutland. It is owned by Vietnam veteran Bob Lauro and serves good home cooked food. Lauro's features a Sunday buffet from 8-1 and also offers catering. Lauro's is offering a 10% discount.

We Honor Our Vets

BROWNSVILLE GIRL SHOE REPAIR

John Bergeron
Owner

20 Center Street
Rutland, VT 05701
(802) 747-4060
Tues.-Fri. 8:00-5:30
Sat. 8:00-Noon

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Each month Chapter One will welcome any new participants in the Honor The Vet Program in the newsletter. This will acknowledge and thank the business people who are participating, as well as keep you up to date on who is offering what for a discount. The current participants are listed below with their discounts.

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1. Northeast Army Navy Surplus	10%
2. Brownsville Girl Shoe Repair	10%
3. Clem's Kitchen	10%
4. Jake's Light Trucking	10-20%
5. Adirondack Tire Merchants	10-20%
6. Pappy's Restaurant	10% + FREE coffee/dessert
7. Army Navy Store	10%
8. Ron's Sunoco	5%
9. Sal's Restaurant	10%
10. Howard's Sunoco	10%
11. Boss Threads	10-20%
12. Michael's Handmade Wooden Toys	10-20%
13. Buxton's Sunoco	5% off labor & parts
14. Bob's Hunting & Fishing	2%
15. Kym-Je Jewelers	10%
16. C & S Consulting Group	20%
17. Lauro's Restaurant	10%

Thanks to all these establishments for believing in the veteran! Show your membership card from any veteran's organization (or other proof of service) to obtain your discount at any of these places!

Do you know of a business who might like to participate in The Honor The Vet Program? This program sets a precedent in the state, & to be strong, it needs businesses. Contact Bill Barnes at 265-8755 or John Bergeron at 747-4060 to have a rep. visit the business & explain the program.

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Poultney Area News

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Open House A Success

On Veterans Day an open house was held at the Dodge Development Center. Even though work is still in progress it only seemed fitting that we open the house to the public. For those of you who are unfamiliar with this project, let me fill you in.

The Dodge Center is named after Mike Dodge, whose dream it was to have such a facility. Make was a Nam Vet who committed suicide in the 80's and probably could have used a similar house.

Most people are under the impression that this is just a Homeless Shelter. Well it is, and more. The goal of this center is to help any veteran to get back on their feet, and that can encompass a number of things; providing a warm place to sleep and a warm meal; job searching skills; medical care; drug or alcohol treatment. Residents will have to abide by a strict set of rules. They will also need to show a willingness to move on with their lives and to take the appropriate steps to fulfill their goals. This center is not a long term "hang-out".

The open house started at noon and lasted until 5 PM. There was a large turnout. Neighbors, politicians, workers, the curious, friends and relatives were among those who toured the Center. Aramark provided the food and it was Good Stuff!

The plumbers have finished; the furnace is installed; all we need is for the city to turn on the water and install the meter. The floors need to be sanded and a little paint on the walls and the V.A.O. can move in.

The address of the Center is 95 Crescent St., next to Kehoes Market. Stop by for a look see or to help out.

I'm On A Roll!

Two days after Veterans Day last year I was "found" by a soldier from my unit (1/506th Inf., 101st Airborne). He informed me that we had a Medal of Honor winner from our platoon. He was Michael Kays, our medic, earning the medal for actions on May 7, 1970. What a great feeling.

While on active duty last month at Fort Sam Houston, I got to see Michael's picture/citation in the museum, where I worked, and at the med school. I have pictures. I spoke to the Regimental historian and he's going to provide us D506's with fancy photograph and citation. The down side of this story is that Michael committed suicide about 2 years ago.

Submitted by Dick Doyle

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Help Design New Color Guard Uniforms

Bill Higgins, Chairman of the VVA Chapter One Color Guard has announced plans to hold a contest to design new uniforms. "Many people tell us we look like the National Guard," says Bill. "We need to change that."

So, put on your thinking caps, get some paper and pens, and put your ideas down on paper. You can describe your idea in vivid detail, or sketch it out for us.

Send your entries to: Bill Higgins, Chairman VVA #1 Color Guard, RD #1, Box 88A, Castleton, VT 05735. Top 3 designs will be picked by the Board of Directors and put before the Chapter at the annual meeting.

Bracelets, Patches & Pins

Don't forget that Chapter One still sells POW/MIA bracelets, bumper stickers, lapel pins and patches. We also can special order pins and patches we don't have in stock.

We always carry bracelets for the 5 missing Vermonters. They are available for $7.50 and come with a fact sheet. Pins are $4, and we have a wide variety of POW pins, as well as Army, Navy, Air Force & Marine, Vietnam, Korea, & WWII.

Also available is a wide variety of bumper stickers concerning the POW issue, as well as the popular window decal for inside your automobile. All stickers are only $1.

Contact John Bergeron or Beth Higgins for details on ordering your supplies.

New Vet Rep in Leahy's Office

Senator Leahy now has a new Veteran's Representative to replace Jack Roule who is now a United States Marshall. His name is Fred Kenny and his phone number is 1-800-642-3193, or (802) 863-2525.

VVA Women Veterans Network

The VVA Women Veterans Committee needs to know who is interested in becoming involved with women veteran issues in Chapters and State Councils. If interested, please send a note to: Linda S. Schwartz, Chair, Women Veterans Committee, Vietnam Veterans of America, 1224 M St., NW, Washington, DC 20005-5183.

KYM-JE

~ Retail Sales ~

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Brandon, Vermont 05733

J.M. "KYM" Hoerr (802) 483-6533

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA, CHAPTER ONE

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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Name:_____

Address:_____

City:_____ State:____ Zip:_____

Home Phone: _____

_____Vietnam Era _____New ____Renewal

_____ Associate _____New ____Renewal

Vietnam Veterans of America
Chapter One - 1995

This is to certify that
John Doe
is a member in good standing of the
Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter #1
Sgt. Pepper
Membership Committee Chairman
Temporary Membership Card

Membership Renewals Due

By now you should have received your membership renewal forms from VVA National. Please renew early, and remember to renew through your chapter.

Beginning with the 1995 Renewal, a 3 year membership option will be available. At $50, this option offers a $10 dollar savings over renewing yearly.

Please remember to renew through your chapter. Sending your renewal forms and dues directly to the chapter enables us to keep better membership records. This helps you if you have problems later on with National, such as no membership card or not receiving the Veteran.

Because of the problems we have had with National's fai

Support Your Newsletter!

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Space will be available at the following rates: Business Card Size - $5.00 per month, 1/4 page - $10.00 per month, 1/2 page - $20.00 per month, Full page - $40.00 per month.

Mail your ads each month to either: Beth Higgins, RD #1, Box 88A, Castleton, VT 05735 or John Bergeron, 20 Center St., Rutland, VT 05701.

Deadline for advertising will be the 15th of each month.

December Meeting to be Held at Lauro's Restaurant

December's meeting will be held on December 3rd at 6 pm. It will be held at Lauro's Restaurant, 161 State Street in Rutland.

Bob Lauro has graciously agreed to open his restaurant for us to hold our meeting.

John has announced that this will be a working meeting. Please bring any or all of the following: scissors, scotch tape, three-hole punch, and those little stick on rings that go around punched holes.

As always, please try to attend.

Santa will be delivering early next month! All ads and copy must be to John or Beth no later that 6 pm on the 15th of December! Absolutely no exceptions will be made!

Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter One
P.O. Box 6301
Rutland, VT 05702
Please Forward

"Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter #1 will assist Vietnam Era Veterans, their families and others in the enhancement of their life experience through intervention and social interaction."

Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter One

RUTLAND REPUBLIC OF VERMONT

December, 1994 • Newsletter • Volume 7

From the Desk of John Bergeron, Vice President

For those of you who use the V.A. Hospital, it might behoove (I love that word!) you to get copies of all your medical records and keep them updated. You should keep track of dates and times of appointments. The reason I mention this is that there is a current lawsuit involving a Pt. and the V.A. Hospital. The individual involved unfortunately did not keep good records, and the V.A. has lost parts of his record so this person is having a difficult time with the claim.

I believe all you need to do is call or write to the V.A. and request them. NAW! That sounds too easy!

VVA #1 donated $50.00 to the WSYB Christmas Fund.

Why is it that as you get older the years become shorter and the clocks move a little faster? Those of us over forty seem to be the victims of a bizarre hoax. How many times do you hear people say "Where does the time go?" Well here it is another Holiday season. 1995 will soon be here and we can start all over again. But, before the Holidays are over I hope that all of you can get together with friends and loved ones and enjoy this time, and take a deep breath and gather your thoughts and prepare yourselves for the New Year.

Presently VVA #1 is experiencing some growing pains. However, I see 1995 as the year #1 does some exciting things. If anyone has an idea for a project that they would like to see us involved in please let us know.

I hope to see all of you at our next meeting on January 7, 1995 at Sewards Family Restaurant on North Main Street in Rutland, 6 P.M. This will be another working meeting, so please bring tape, scissors,etc.

Seward's makes their meeting room available under the following guidelines: There is no charge for the room if we order off the menu. In other words, if no one eats, we have to pay for the room. I guess this is a dinner meeting!

Unfinished Warrior Update

I have been in contact with Mike Winslow of the Sculpting Studio of West Rutland and he has graciously offered to house the piece of Marble in their facility for us. Mike is very interested in this project and would like to help us in any way possible. Now we have one more obstacle to overcome - we need to transport this 4 ton slab from Castleton to West Rutland. If anyone has the means to help please contact me at 747-4060 or 775-7577. Thanks.

Veterans Day 1994

On Veterans Day my wife and I visited Roy Cook, father of Peter Cook (KIA from my unit), and met his family. It was our first meeting. I gave Roy 3 pictures of his son that were taken 10 days prior to his death. We talked, saw Peter's picture and medals, etc. We discussed his death. Roy wants to know "why", as we all do. I had no acceptable answer to that question. We were able to visit his grave and the VFW Post which is named after him. It was one of my most meaningful Veterans Days.

Submitted by Dick Doyle

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Beth Higgins, RD #1 Box 88A, Castleton, VT 05735
or
John Bergeron, 20 Center St., Rutland, VT 05701.

It is our policy to provide an open forum to all. Therefore, the articles, letters and ads contained herein do not necessarily reflect the policies or views of VVA #1 or VVA National.

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Sat. 8:00-Noon

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor:

The last newsletter talked about the Dodge Development Center & mentioned that it was to be more than it appears.

I would like to shed a little historical light on the subject. I have often made the statement that state side casualties are just as hard hitting as war time casualties. Mike Dodge was this & more to me. For many of the VVA members, Mike Dodge was a tremendous investment. His talents, especially in music, were off the scale. He like many got caught up in the Government games dealing with PTSD. Eventually, Mike couldn't tell the difference between the game & reality. When Mike died by his own hand my heart was broken, not only because of my loss, but also because society had lost an outstanding human being & a future of creative growth. That's what happens when people die - we all lose a part of our future creative growth.

I was honored, at Mike's funeral, to be able to present to Elaine (his wife) the American flag folded. It's ironic because I remember I said: "Elaine on behalf of a grateful nation I present this flag to you in honor of Mike." I went on - "Personally I would like to tell you how sorry I am for your loss, but somehow, some way, someday, Mike Dodge will not have died in vain."

That is what it's all about "so they have not died in vain." You see, Mike Dodge was one that got away. Out of that pain will come a rebirth of something positive.

I would personally like to thank the Veterans Assistance Office for taking on this project & continuing with it. Also all those involved in starting & completing "Phase One". You all are responsible for allowing me to fulfill a promise made in March of 1986. Thank you again very much. Is the Dodge Development Center more than it appears? You decide! I just thought maybe you would like to know.

R. Jake Jacobsen

P.S. I sent this letter to the Rutland Herald. They never printed it.

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Veterans Group Forming POW/MIA Watchdog Group

Reprinted from the 28 Nov./4 Dec. Stars & Stripes

by Dick Maggrett

Stars and Stripes staff writer

An alliance of veteran organizations led by The American Legion is forming a group to bird-dog the unresolved POW/MIA issue in Washington, DC, before diplomatic relations with Vietnam are normalized.

Fourteen separate veterans organizations met 14 Nov. at the Legion's office in Washington to organize a working group.

"We owe it to (veterans and their families) to come to a resolution of this issue," said William M. Deteiler, the Legion's national commander.

John Sommer Jr., the Legion official elected chairman of the group, said, "The group is off and running." Sommer is the executive director of the Legion's Washington office.

"The issue quite frankly has been overlooked by a majority in Congress," Sommer told *The Stars and Stripes.* " The Legion is opposed to moving toward normalization until a much greater amount of progress is made on the POW/MIA issue."

Sommer said President Clinton has said that no further action on the issue would be taken until Vietnam meets criteria of two presidential delegations sent to Vietnam in search of POW/MIAs. "We trust the president will stand by his statement."

Vietnam War historian and author Al Santoli, who also participated in the group, said in a phone interview that veterans and families of those who served "all fear the government is rapidly writing of names on Pentagon POW/MIA lists without knowing their status."

Santoli said there may be a crisis in veterans organizations on the POW/MIA issue "in the sense that they feel that the government is irresponsible trying to bring closure of the issue without adequate investigation. If you find one tooth, it doesn't mean that the person belonging to the tooth is dead."

Santoli blamed the US business community for a "rush to normalcy" in Vietnam relations.

Veterans groups that attended the first organizational meeting were, besides the Legion, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Disabled American Veterans, Vietnam Veterans of America, AMVETS, the National League of Families, the National Alliance of Families, Korean War Veterans and American Ex-Prisoners of War.

Others attending, besides author Santoli, were the National Vietnam Veterans Coalition, the Marine Corps League, the Center for Security Policy, the American Defense Institute and the America GI Forum.

Bill Roland, executive director of American Ex-Prisoners of War in Washington, confirmed that his group "attended the organizational meeting and are evaluating to see how we feel about the situation."

Roland's ex-prisoners organization has about 20,000 members of the approximately 65,000 US ex-prisoners living today. "We were all MIAs at one time," he said.

A second gathering scheduled for mid-December will formalize the group's structure and agenda. "We don't claim to have the final product yet," Sommer said.

According to Sommer, the group will work toward keeping the administration and Congress focused on the POW/MIA issue. "There's been no concerted effort to make the resolution of the POW/MIA issue the priority it should be on the nation's agenda."

One priority, said Sommer, will be to examine the list of MIAs kept by the Dept. of Defense.

Sommer said he thinks "some individuals are hedging their interpretation" of the POW/MIA issue by accepting a list of cases "that were arbitrarily put together:.

Said Sommer: "We know that the discrepancy cases on Gen. Vesey's list was arbitrarily put together." Sommer said there are cases not on the list drawn up by the Defense POW/MIA office that are "as compelling" as those on it.

The Pentagon is currently amending the list as required by the fiscal year 1995 defense budget.

Sommer said the new group also will focus on making sure what has happened to POW/MIAs in the past won't happen in future. The military is getting involved in peacekeeping and humanitarian missions "that turn into something else like Somalia,: Sommer said. "We are focusing on a need to establish through the president, Congress and international groups rules and regulations that would offer protections for those individuals who may be captured in there kinds of missions."

submitted by Dick Doyle

Have you sent in your membership renewal yet?
Renew Today!

Where Have They Gone?

Sometimes I sit alone or even when I'm driving & think about years gone by. My, how times fly by. Was it really 15 years ago when a few people were scrambling to establish VVA Chapter 1? Yes, it was. Where have they gone? What has happened to them? Are they part of our forgotten past?

It's funny - being a point-man or a pioneer can be very lonely, mind wrenching , & yes, even exhausting. So many people take things for granted & feel, well somebody will do it. That's what happened. Most of those early years were because of 5 people. It's almost amazing what was done by just a few. But it was more than that. We never worried about numbers. All we were trying to do was to fill a void; create sanity out of insanity. We all knew what insanity was & wanted to be on the complete opposite side.

The commitment was strong & the 5 kept on trucking. We drew strength from one another & were always conscious of becoming the very thing we fought against - bureaucratic. Very seldom did we get bogged down & while others would drop the ball we continued to pick it up and run - the 5; the committed; the insanity; the sanity.

Where are they now? Well, hopefully they are out there continuing the mission in whatever avenues they can. Hopefully they haven't forgotten that, no, their brothers & sisters *aren't* heavy, but continue to forge ahead.

I haven't been with you physically. But I continue to forge ahead with the mission. What mission? Well, in 1971 it was twofold:

1) Create sanity out of insanity.
2) Be part of people helping people.

It is now 1994 & I still have the same mission - even though my vehicle is different.

I encourage you all, especially at this time of year (which is still hard for many vets) to refocus & take stock of your lives & find your goals. We're still out here & pray for you all. Maybe this article will encourage some of the originals of VVA #1 to write this newsletter.

Submitted by R. Jake Jacobsen

Golden Pride/Rawleigh
Distributor

Juanita "*Kym*" Hoerr
802-483-6533

HANDCRAFTED JEWELRY

Season's Greetings

From the staff here at the newsletter - We wish all of you and your loved ones a Happy Holiday and a Joyous New Year!

Corporate Alternatives

- ***Helping America***
Redistribute the wealth back to the people.
- ***Helping people***
Compete with the corporate giants.
- ***Helping people***
Earn while they learn.

R. Jake Jacobsen
RR #1 - Box 1480
W. Rutland, VT 05777
802-438-5188

Christmas Poetry by Etta Marie Donovan, Copyright 1991

Twas the Night

Twas the night before Christmas
and all through the cell
Not a creature was stirring
in this place we call Hell.

While me and my cell mate
settled for another lonesome night
We count blessings so few
struggling to keep up our fight.

When out in the courtyard
there arose such a clatter
Men jumped from their mats
all the guards were a chatter

For out of the mist
stepped our own Uncle Sam
Loaded with all that was needed
he'd come back to Vietnam.

The prisoners eyes filled with tears
Uncle Sam's showed such gleam
Then sadly we awakened
from our Christmas Eve dream.

Christmas Night

Men are still in bondage
men left dying in their chains
Years and years in the passing
but the heartaches still remain.

When you see the candle lights glowing
pause to give God the praise
That you are home and safely warm
not sitting alone counting days.

The Christmas trees are oh so pretty
with everything bright and all aglow
But men are still held prisoner
just thought you might want to know.

I know that you're excited
happiness and pure delight
But I'd ask you to say a silent prayer
for captive men on this Christmas night.

Christmas Time

Christmas time, my heart is heavy
for ones we have left behind
Oh, I hear the jingle bells
but the POW's plight is on my mind.

Christmas shopping put on hold
there's one more meeting to attend
I'm aware of garland and lights
but the POW's plight does not end.

No matter the occasion
what celebration is at hand
Your heart and mind still focus
on that POW's name band.

Merry Christmas one and all
please accept all good wishes from me
I still hear an old Christmas song saying
there can't be a Merry Christmas for a
man if he's not free.

Remember the POW/MIAs at Christmastime and always. We pray to God that 1995 will be the year they come home.

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA, CHAPTER ONE

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Membership in Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter one is open to all Vietnam Era Veterans. Associate Membership is open to family members, friends, and concerned citizens. Return this form with $20 annual membership dues and a copy of your DD-214 (if applicable) to: Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter One, PO Box 6301, Rutland, VT 05702. Upon receipt of your dues, Chapter One will issue a temporary membership card like the one below. This will serve as your authorized membership card until you receive one from National.

Name:_____

Address:_____

City:_____ State:____ Zip:_____

Home Phone: _____

_____Vietnam Era _____New ____Renewal

_____ Associate _____New ____Renewal

Vietnam Veterans of America
Chapter One - 1995

This is to certify that
John Doe
is a member in good standing of the
Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter #1
Sgt. Pepper
Membership Committee Chairman
Temporary Membership Card

Membership Renewals Due

By now you should have received your membership renewal forms from VVA National. Please renew early, and remember to renew through your chapter.

Beginning with the 1995 Renewal, a 3 year membership option will be available. At $50, this option offers a $10 dollar savings over renewing yearly.

Please remember to renew through your chapter. Sending your renewal forms and dues directly to the chapter enables us to keep better membership records. This helps you if you have problems later on with National, such as no membership card or not receiving the Veteran.

Because of the problems we have had with National's fai

Support Your Newsletter!

Chapter #1 now is selling space in our newsletter for advertising. By doing this, we will raise money for the newsletter committee to use for publishing and mailing the monthly newsletter. Also, we will promote the businesses or causes of our local business owners, veterans and non-veterans alike.

Space will be available at the following rates: Business Card Size - $5.00 per month, 1/4 page - $10.00 per month, 1/2 page - $20.00 per month, Full page - $40.00 per month.

Mail your ads each month to either: Beth Higgins, RD #1, Box 88A, Castleton, VT 05735 or John Bergeron, 20 Center St., Rutland, VT 05701.

Deadline for advertising will be the 15th of each month.

January Meeting to be Held at Seward's Family Restaurant

January's meeting will be held on January 7th at 6 pm. It will be held at Seward's Family Restaurant, on North Main Street in Rutland.

John has announced that this will be a working meeting. Please bring any or all of the following: scissors, scotch tape, three-hole punch, and those little stick on rings that go around punched holes.

As always, please try to attend.

Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter One
P.O. Box 6301
Rutland, VT 05702
Please Forward

"Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter #1 will assist Vietnam Era Veterans, their families and others in the enhancement of their life experience through intervention and social interaction."